

BODY SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 1993.

FOR 20 MARCH

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1. HAITI: MILITARY NERVOUS OVER NEW TALKS

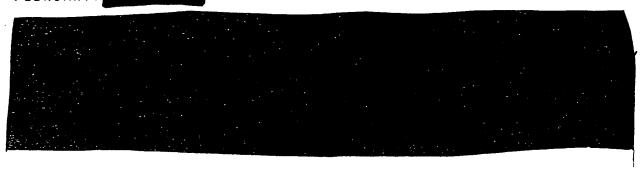
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1. HAITI: MILITARY NERVOUS OVER NEW TALKS

AS UN-OAS SPECIAL ENVOY CAPUTO BEGINS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DE FACTO REGIME IN PORT-AU-PRINCE THIS WEEKEND, UNREST AMONG THE MILITARY RANK AND FILE IS GROWING, AND ARMY LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO STALL ON TALKS.

MEMBERS OF THE HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY—WHICH STRONGLY OPPOSES THE RETURN OF PRESIDENT ARISTIDE AND HAS BEEN A PIVOTAL UNIT IN PAST REVOLTS—ARE HIGHLY UPSET WITH SENIOR OFFICERS FOR "CAPITULATING" TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

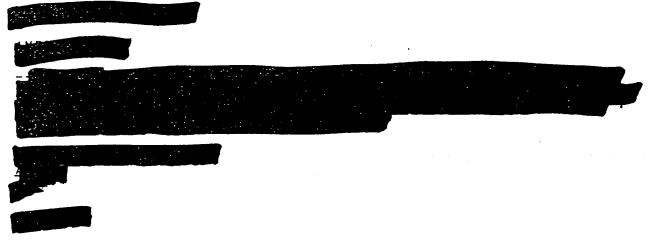
ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS HAS LOST PRESIDE WITH THE ENLISTED MEN FOR ACCEDING TO A US REQUEST NOT TO COURT—MARTIAL A DESERTER WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN US REFUGEE STATUS. AN THE REGIME MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY MEETING THE MILITARY PAYROLL THIS MONTH AFTER BARELY COVERING EXPENSES IN FEBRUARY.



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COMMENT: DESPITE THEIR OUTWARD CONFIDENCE, REGIME OFFICIALS WILL BE TENSE AS NEW NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN. THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND CLEARLY IS NERVOUS OVER ITS DECLINING INFLUENCE OVER THE RANK AND FILE AND WILL INITIALLY TAKE A HARD LINE TO QUELL THE THREAT OF UNREST. RIGHTIST FACTIONS ARE LIKELY TO TRY TO EXPLOIT RESTIVENESS AMONG THE TROOPS TO UNDERMINE CEDRAS.



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